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J.O. to Jim, 31 October 1961

J. Oliver Emmerich

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By OLIVER EDMERICH

Most of our problems are human problems. When the human side of our problems is given first consideration, our people progress further. It is gratifying to observe that the people of our part of the Southland are seeking earnestly to improve human relations as applied to all of the fields of individual and community endeavor.

Good people and the good earth working together create the good life. This should be the goal of all of our people. More and more we are good to the good life.

Enterprise-Journal

The One Newspaper in the World Most Interested in this Community

McComb, Miss.

Circulation Shows
Biggest
in

It's a Privilege
to Live in City,
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Statistical
Growth of
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Industrial Payrolls
Increase in McComb

By OLIVER EDMERICH

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It Pays to
Advertise

Oct. 31, 1961

Dear Jim:

Since you helped con these guys into making me a Nieman Fellow, you'll be interested in knowing that Harvard is surpassing my highest expectations. I'm having a magnificent time.

I've met many of the history department people. Frank Freidel invited Celia and me to his house for dinner Saturday, and we had a fine time. He had assembled all sorts of interesting people.

I am following his course in "American Political Institutions." He is a splendid fellow and a superb lecturer. I took issue with him the other day on his lecture on slavery. Slavery was bad enough, of course, but I thought he made it out to be almost sadistic. His grandfather must have been an Abolitionist. While I don't subscribe to the magnolia-Blossoms-and-mint-julep school of Southern history, I do think you can make out a case for slavery -- a losing case, mind you -- if you attempt to see the issue as the people of the United States saw it in 1830, not as we see it in 1961.

I told Freidel he took the sort of provincial attitude in his lecture which I deplore in the South. I think it hacked him a bit, and I regretted the comment. Be that as it may, he rates just about tops among the lecturers I hear. He also has been quite cordial to the Nieman Fellows. We spent a couple of hours with him at one of the beer and cheese seminars. The discussion was about Roosevelt mostly.

I'm also following courses in American Intellectual History (Fleming), American Constitutional Development (McCloskey), Government and Politics of the Soviet Union (Fainsod), and a humanities course (Mumford Jones) and one of writing fiction (Morrison).

~~Friend~~

Freidel speaks highly of you and of his pleasant visit with you in Mississippi. Arthur Schelsinger Sr., who meets with us for the Nieman dinners, also speaks highly of you.

The Nieman group itself is an interesting bunch of newspapermen. There are 16 of us in all. ~~XX~~ Eleven are American newspapermen and the rest are from foreign countries. The Americans are a couple of Washington correspondents (Knight newspapers and the Houston Post), a UPI Latin American correspondent, state capitol reporters from the Cleveland Plain Dealer and the Raleigh News and Observer, an editorial writer from the Lynchburg, Va., paper, an education writer from the Philadelphia Bulletin, a South African correspondent from the Christian Science Monitor, an investigative reporter (and Pulitzer prize winner) from the Atlanta Constitution, a science writer from the Boston Globe, and maybe somebody I've forgotten.

The others ~~XXXXXX~~ come from Tokyo, Formosa, New Delhi, Toronto and two from South Africa (one white, one black). The African South African (black) was permitted to leave his country only by giving up his right ever to return. He's sort of a man without a country now. He's very talented and he's a man with a revolutionary cause.

Hodding Carter was up here recently and he made a big hit with his law school audience. It's too bad the State Sovereignty Commission doesn't get him on their speaking circuit. He'd probably be able to win some friends for Mississippi.

William Higgs of Jackson (on the bulletin boards billed as Jackson's only Negro attorney; are they in for a surprise!) called me up tonight. He's ~~xxxxxx~~ going to speak on civil rights or something. We're having dinner together tomorrow.

Needless to say, ~~X~~ I'm very much impressed by the faculty and these frighteningly bright undergraduates. It's too bad some of this zeal for learning can't be distributed around to all college campuses.

If you have occasion to meet Aubrey Jerome (Jonah) Ford at Ole Miss, try to chat with him. He's a friend of mine and a former McComb High School language teacher. He's the best teacher McComb has had in years (although he couldn't qualify for a teacher's license). He's ~~xxxxxxxx~~ teaching German at Ole Miss and doing graduate work. He is a shy, sort of stuttering fellow at first, but he has a great mind.

Well, regards to all of my Ole Miss friends.

Cordially,

J.O.

(85 Richdale Ave., Cambridge, Mass.)

John Emmerich



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John Warner Joh

(65) Nicholas Ave., Cambridge, Mass.)